

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 03267 230016Z
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W
-----231034Z 085739 /10

R 221703Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4513

UNCLAS LIMA 3267

FOR: CU/IVP, CU/ARA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OEXC, PGOV (CABRERIZO, CARLOS)
SUBJECT: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, MAY 1 - 30, 1977

REF: STATE 85928

1. AREQUIPA, SECOND CITY OF IMPORTANCE IN PERU
LOCATED 650 MILES SOUTH OF LIMA ABOUT 50 MILES
FROM COAST AT 6,700 FEET ALTITUDE HAS POPULATION
ABOUT 130,000. KNOWN AS THE "WHITE CITY" DUE UNIQUE
CONSTRUCTION BUILDINGS AND HOUSES OF SILLAR BLOCK,
A WHITE, POROUS LAVA ROCK USED FOR CENTURIES BY
LOCAL ARCHITECTS FOR STRENGTH, BEAUTY, ACCESSIBILITY
AND RESISTENCE TO EARTHQUAKES COMMON TO REGION. STYLE
IS SPANISH COLONIAL. TROPICAL LOCATION AT THAT ALTITUDE
MAKES FOR CLEAR PLEASANT CLIMATE EXCEPT RAINY SEASON
JANUARY-MARCH. SNOW-COVERED PEAKS OVERLOOK CITY.

2. LIGHT INDUSTRY (CANNED MILK PLANT, TEXTILES, CMENNT,
FOOD PRODUCTS, BEVERAGES) AGRICULTURE AND COPPER MINES
NEARBY. TOURISM BEING DEVELOPED.

3. CITY GOVERNMENT HEADED BY MAYOR AND LIEUTENANT MAYOR
APPOINTED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. OTHER MAJOR OFFICIALS
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ARE COMMANDING GENERAL THIRD MILITARY REGION. PREFECT
APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT TO ADMINISTER PROVINCE, AND
ARCHBISHOP.

4. CITY SUFFERS FROM ISOLATION WITH ONLY ONE PAVED ROAD
THROUGH MOUNTAINS AND DESERT TO CAPITAL (TWO-DAYS BY
ROAD, ONE HOUR BY PLANE), UNEMPLOYMENT, ENERGY SHORTAGES.

"AREQUIPENOS" NOTED FOR INDEPENDENT SPIRIT ATTRIBUTABLE
IN PART TO ISOLATION. NEARBY COPPER MINE "CERRO VERDE"
EXPANDING PRODUCTION DRAMATICALLY WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY
AND INTERESTING "TVA-LIKE" MAJES IRRIGATION PROJECT
HOLDS GREAT PROMISE FOR AREA WHEN COMPLETED IN EARLY
EIGHTIES.

5. HOPE ABOVE MEETS CONTRACTOR'S NEEDS.

6. POST AND GRANTEE INTERESTED IN ARRANGING VISIT TO
SISTER CITY CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA AS PART OF
PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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